

**CADAVER OES TEST AND RECERTIFICATION**  
**TYPE 1 RESOURCE FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Appendix "B"**

**CADAVER REQUIREMENTS AND TEST**

The checklist must be completed before taking the test. Items must be signed off by one of the designated evaluators. The purpose of the checklist is to evaluate the team's readiness to take the cadaver test. All dogs working cadaver off lead must pass the obedience exercises. Dogs working cadaver on lead do not need to complete the functional obedience section but must complete the socialization exercises as well as the remainder of the checklist.

**SECTION 1: FUNCTIONAL OBEDIENCE**

**Off-Lead Heeling**

This test demonstrates that the dog can move politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several strangers – at least three. The dog may show some interest in the strangers without appearing over exuberant, shy, or resentful. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Stop**

The dog shall be placed on a "stay" 25 yards from the starting line. After calling the dog, the handler shall stop the dog approximately halfway.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Long Down**

The long down for five minutes with the handler out of sight can be done as a single dog or in a group. The dog may be placed next to the handler's pack and at least five feet away from any other dog. Upon direction from the evaluator, the handler shall give the dog a "stay" command and walk out of the dog's sight. Timing starts when the evaluator states, "leave the dog." The dog may sit, stand, or shift positions, but may not move more than his body length in any direction from where he was placed. The dog must be under the supervision of a monitor during the five minutes. The evaluator will direct the handler to return to the dog.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2: SOCIALIZATION**

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ Wilderness: Area ☐ Trailing ☐

**Accepting a Friendly Stranger**

This test demonstrates that a dog on a loose leash will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no signs of aggression or shyness.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Reaction to Another Dog**

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers with their dogs on leash approach each other from a distance of about ten yards, stop, shake hands, and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about five yards. The dogs should show no more than a casual interest in each other.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3: LOG BOOK**

The team must present their logbook showing at least six months of current, regular training in cadaver. Handlers shall keep complete training records; these should start when the dog's training is started and end when the dog is retired. These records indicate the experience of the handler even after placing a new dog in service.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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### **SECTION 4: CADAVER SCENT EXERCISE**

The team must demonstrate the ability to find/locate the following cadaver scent at a training session in a search area not to exceed 20 yards by 20 yards.

Scent sources are to be placed 30 minutes before the dog begins. The team will have 20 minutes to complete each sign-off. These sign-offs may or may not be completed on the same day. The scent item location will not be known to the team. One of the sign-offs must include an animal distraction.

#### **Item 1: Surface Blood**

The scent item will be a minimum of 3 cc of human blood on a sterile gauze pad exposed to air for at least 48 hours. The item will be on the ground but covered with leaves, branches, etc. and not readily visible to the dog and handler. If the dog eats, picks up or urinates on the scent source, the dog will FAIL this sign off.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Item 2: Buried Cadaver Scent**

The cadaver scent material will be buried 15 inches in porous soil and not readily visible to the dog and handler. Porous soil can be made by mixing debris such as leaves, branches, and rocks into the dirt. One or two false holes must be made no closer than 20 feet from the scent source. In case of digging, the handler shall identify the alert before the item is visible. If the dog eats, picks up or urinates on the scent source, the dog will FAIL this sign off.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Item 3: Cadaver Hanging**

The cadaver scent material will be suspended approximately three feet from the ground and not readily visible to the dog and handler. If the dog eats, picks up or urinates on the scent source, the dog will FAIL this sign off.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Item 4: Cadaver Interior Environment**

The cadaver scent material will be placed on or close to the floor (less than one foot above the floor) in an interior environment. The item will be inaccessible to the dog and not readily visible to the dog and handler. The interior shall be approximately the size of a standard two-car garage and not a confined space. If the dog eats, picks up or urinates on the scent source, the dog will FAIL this sign off.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### **SECTION 5: ANIMAL REMAINS DISTRACTION**

#### **Animal Remains Distraction**

An animal remains distraction that is not buried shall be placed in one of the four sign-off areas. The dog did not alert on animal remains.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### **OES CADAVER SEARCH DOG CADAVER SCENT MATERIALS**

For the sign-offs as well as the test, the following definitions for the scent materials shall be used. The cadaver scent sources used must have been recently used successfully in training or a test.

Cadaver scent may include:

- Soil sample from where a body has decomposed
- Clothing items or cloth from a decomposing body
- Bone with tissue
- Tissue
- Hair mixed with other cadaver material

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### ***Cadaver scent may not include:***

- Dry, bleached bone
- Ashes
- Synthetic scents
- Teeth
- Hair only

### **EVALUATOR GUIDELINES**

The search test demonstrates the ability of the team to locate cadaver scent. This, combined with the ability of the handler to correctly read the dog, makes an effective search tool. The area shall be approximately one acre (70 yards by 70 yards) with boundaries marked. The area should be mixed with some open areas, trees, brush, rocks, etc. The evaluators should have a clear view of the dog's work.

The area shall have one to two scent source categories from the sign-offs including at least one 15-inch burial in porous soil. Scent material will be placed at least one hour prior to the test. The test shall not include known animal remains.

There shall be one or two false holes must be made within the one-acre test site, none of which will be closer than 20 feet from any scent source.

The evaluators shall brief the team and describe the boundaries. The search time will start after the briefing. The team will be allowed a maximum of one hour. The handler may direct the dog to search but should not encourage the dog's alert.

Only one dog can be tested in a search area per day. Evaluators must be aware of any previous tests given in the search area.

Two evaluators are required for the one-acre search test. Handlers being tested are encouraged to use evaluators from outside of their own agency/unit when possible. Agencies/units with evaluators are encouraged to make tests available to handlers from outside their own agency/unit.

To pass the test, the team must find all items. The handler must correctly interpret the dog's behavior and must indicate to the evaluators where the source of the cadaver scent is located.

### **Item 1: Buried Cadaver Scent (The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on the scent source. If the dog does, then it FAILS the sign off.)**

The cadaver scent material will be buried 15 inches in porous soil and not readily visible to the dog and handler. Porous soil can be made by mixing debris such as leaves, branches, and rocks into the dirt. In case of digging, the handler shall identify the alert before the item is visible. The scent material will be placed at least one hour prior to the test. The test shall not include known animal remains. The team will be allowed a maximum of one hour.

Time Buried: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ Failed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Item 2: (optional) (The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on the scent source. If the dog does, then it FAILS the sign off.)**

- ☐ Surface Blood
- ☐ Cadaver Hanging
- ☐ Cadaver Interior Environment

Time Placed: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Passed: \_\_\_\_\_ Failed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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**CADAVER SEARCH TEST-** (The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on the scent source. If the dog does, then it FAILS the sign off.)

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

OES Cadaver Search Dog Pre-Test Checklist Complete \_\_\_\_\_

OES Cadaver Search Test Complete \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_

The evaluator is verifying the handler has met the prerequisites for a mission-ready handler.

### **EVALUATOR QUALIFICATIONS & EVALUATOR REQUIREMENTS:**

- See Page 18 of the SAR Mutual Aid Canine Guidelines for SAR Dog Evaluator Guidelines and the OES Cadaver Standards

### **CALL OUT PROCEDURES**

All requests for cadaver search dog teams must come from the law enforcement agency having investigative jurisdiction for the case.

It is recommended a minimum of two dog teams be deployed on cadaver searches. A cadaver search is usually not an emergency and should be scheduled to accommodate the volunteers' schedules when possible. Upon receipt of a request for search dog teams, OES will determine the closest team(s) and contact the agency of the closest team(s). Dog teams will then be dispatched by their own agency/organization dispatcher based on proximity and availability. No search dog team shall search alone.

Ideally, an investigator shall accompany search dog teams from the requesting agency. However, at a minimum, an investigator shall be made immediately available to the handler. The investigator shall be the designated finder of any remains or evidence located by the dog team. Whenever possible, only the investigator shall handle the evidence. Only the investigator shall collect the evidence or remains to preclude the dog handler from becoming part of the chain of custody. Items or remains located by a search dog team shall be submitted for forensic or anthropological examination by the requesting agency to determine the origin of the remains. The fact the remains were found by a "cadaver - trained dog" is not to be considered as a conclusive indication that the remains are human.

In general, dog handlers need not submit written reports to the requesting agency; however, if an agency requests a report, the handler must send a copy to OES. If a report is required, it should be limited to: 1) date and time of search; 2) location; 3) dog teams present; 4) brief description of the search and location of alerts if any. OES will maintain a list of currently state-qualified cadaver search dog teams. It is the responsibility of each agency/unit to provide the information to keep the list current and to assure that the qualifications are valid. Information needed for each qualified team includes:

- Handler Name
- Dog's Name
- City and County of Residence
- Affiliated Agency/Unit

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**CADAVER RECERTIFICATION**

All teams shall re-certify every year to maintain active status. Re-certification must occur within one month, either before or after, of the anniversary month. The anniversary month is the month in which the original certification test was taken. For example, if a team originally took their certification test on March 15, they must re-certify between February 1 and April 30. If a team fails to re-certify during the prescribed period, the team must repeat the sign-offs and the test. The first re-certification will consist of two of the four search sign-offs. The second re-certification will consist of the one-acre test. Additional re-certifications will continue alternating between the two sign-offs and the one-acre test. Each year the handler must be signed off for their logbook and first aid/CPR.

**OES CADAVER SEARCH DOG RECERTIFICATION  
LOGBOOK CHECK**

Handler: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog: \_\_\_\_\_ OES Cadaver Certified Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**LOG BOOK CHECK**

The team must present their logbook showing continued, current, regular training in cadaver.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECERTIFICATION SIGN-OFFS *or* RECERTIFICATION ONE-ACRE TEST**

(The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on any of the scent items. If the dog does, then it will automatically FAIL either the re-certification sign-offs or re-certification One-Acre Test.)

Item 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CADAVER Live or Deceased (TYPE 2)**

<b>Handler:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____
<b>Dog:</b> _____ <b>Location:</b> _____ <b>Re-certification:</b> _____
<b>Start time:</b> _____ <b>Stop Time:</b> _____ <b>Pass</b> ____ <b>Fail</b> ____
<b>Terrain</b> _____ <b>Elevation</b> _____
<b>Weather</b> _____ <b>Temperature</b> _____

Handler Skill		YES	NO
1	Conducts an initial interview		
2	Has an initial plan of action		
3	Demonstrates radio skills		
4	Demonstrates map & compass skills		
5	Has a plan of action		
6	Adjustment of search for wind conditions		
7	Coverage of search area		
8	Ability to interpret dog's alerts/interest		
9	Ability to direct and control dog		
10	Provision of appropriate breaks for dog		

Dog Skills		YES	NO
11	Dog must be given the live command to search		
12	Locates live subject		
13	Locates scent source-The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on the scent source.		
14	Makes report to handler which would be recognizable at night		
15	Takes handler all the way to live subject		
	Takes handler all the way to scent source		

<b>Comments:</b>

<b>Evaluator</b>	<b>Co-Evaluator</b>
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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this test is to show that a dog responding to a search in which the condition of the subject is unknown will locate the subject whether he is alive or deceased.

**TEST CRITERIA:** There shall be one evaluator who is cadaver or wilderness certified. See Mutual Aid Guidelines for SAR Dog Evaluator Guidelines. The test site shall include open areas, brush, trees, grass/dirt and rocks. The live person shall be hidden so the handler cannot see the hidden subject.

The large cadaver scent source, or a combination of small sources shall be hidden so the handler or dog cannot see the source. The source(s) will not be buried but shall be camouflaged. The dog must locate both the live subject and the scent source within one hour to pass this test. The dog shall not eat, pick up or urinate on the scent source.